The construction work of Railway Division at Sambalpur is being progressed consistent with availability of resources.

(b) The proposed Sambalpur Division will have jurisdiction over the following Sections:—

(i) Jharsuguda—Bolangir

(ii) Bolangir—Titlagarh

(iii) Titlagarh—Reyagada

(iv) 8itlagarh—raipur and

(v) Sambalpur—Talcher new line under construction.

Harmful effects of Asbestos

3638. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken notice of the findings of the Western Health authorities that use of asbestos and even living under the roof of asbestos cum cement sheets are positively one of the causes of Cancer; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to minimise this hazard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research have not shown any ill effects to residents due to low level of exposure to asbestos fibre.

Telecommunication net work for Oil and Natural Gas Commission

3639. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. have proposed to spend about rupees 15 crores for telecommunication net work exclusively for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission using INSAT 1 B; and

(b) whether it would have been expedient to spend this amount through the National telecommunication wing, so that it would augument and improve the overall modernisation of the National Telecommunication Net work inclusive that of defence and public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Overcharging for the medicines and Drugs

3640. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some of the drug and pharmaceutical companies are charging higher prices for the life saving medicines and drugs despite the fact that Government have fixed the prices of such drugs under the DPCO;

(b) whether Government have identified the companies which are overcharging for the drugs; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPADE): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals, Ministry of Industry, some companies are charging their own prices due to the stay orders granted by various High Courts.